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"The Woes of Slaves"

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county." This will also be published by the Historical Department sometime in 1898. When this last pamphlet appears all of the enumerations that have been made in Iowa will have been in print. The most important of our census publications were those of 1880, (which included summaries of all the enumerations back to 1836), 1885 and 1895, the last of which was issued but a few months ago. A few copies only of the valuable volume of 1885 are left in the Capitol for distribution, while the edition of 1836-80 is wholly exhausted. The Iowa State Historical Society at Iowa City, however, owns a few surplus copies of this last Report. The 1895 volume may be had on application to the Secretary of State. As a hint to Iowa librarians it may be stated that the scarce volumes can doubtless be "picked up" within their own counties. They are indispensable in every well-equipped Iowa public library and within a short time cannot be had at all. Aside from statistics, these volumes contain much important historical information which is in frequent request. But of the various more limited Iowa census publications—some fifteen or sixteen in number—the most of which appeared in pamphlet form—all long ago disappeared from the State document room, excepting only a few of 1875. They are now only to be had as one may accidentally find them here and there. It is doubtful whether a complete file is anywhere in existence.

"THE WOES OF SLAVES."

Recollections of American Slavery have well nigh gone out of the minds of the people, and more especially of the generation which has grown up since the war of the rebellion. Surviving soldiers occasionally mention the contraband camps, in which fugitives from slavery, who sought the protection of the Union armies, were congregated for support and protection. We have been accustomed also to read in war stories how slaves fed and protected and piloted on their journeys Union soldiers who had escaped from rebel prisons and were making their way back to our army. In such

emergencies the loyalty and friendship of the colored man, the poor oppressed slave, could always be depended upon. But of the terrible barbarities of that "peculiar institution," little realizing sense seems to remain. These facts make especially pertinent the thrilling narration of Major S. H. M. Byers which appears in the preceding pages. He gives a clear and succinct statement of how slavery appeared to intelligent Iowans who visited the South in *ante-bellum* times, portraying the haughty spirit which it bred in the owners of human chattels, and the pain and suffering too often inflicted upon its patient, unresisting victims. How those practical "abolitionists"—the soldiers in the army—dealt with slavery and slaveholders; is also graphically set forth. This paper is a record of personal experiences—the most reliable and valuable historical data.

AN ERROR CORRECTED.

Those who read the preceding number of *THE ANNALS* (pp. 232-234) remember that reference was made to a twice-published statement written long ago by Maj. William Williams of Fort Dodge, to the effect that Mr. Charles Aldrich had opposed the just payment by the State of compensation to the patriotic volunteers who marched and suffered in the Spirit Lake Expedition of 1857. While that article fully set forth the facts of the case, we have since received a letter from Hon. John F. Duncombe, Capt. of Co. B. in the expedition, who refers to the matter as follows:

"I was in Europe when the statement made by Maj. Williams, which was published in *The Chronicle*, was first read by me. I was astonished at it and very much grieved on account of your kindness. It was certainly overlooked by my son, the editor of *The Chronicle*. No doubt these remarks were made by Major Williams when he was greatly excited in some political campaign. This part of the article certainly would not have been published had it come under my observation. Maj. Williams' son furnished these papers to my son and I presume this statement escaped his notice. I know that it is not a correct expression of the views of Maj. Williams before his death. As you know, he was a very impetuous man, and when excited expressed himself very severely, and half an hour after would be perfectly reconciled to the person with whom he was angry, and become his very best friend—as was the case I have no doubt, as far as you were concerned. I know personally that the statement was a mistake and that you did not oppose the payment of the bills incurred in the Spirit Lake Expedition."

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